New catering policy

2084. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any new catering policy in the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether his Ministry is taking any steps to keep reasonable prices of the meals being served by the department in various trains of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R VELU): (a) to (c) Railways' catering policy was last revised in December, 2005. Thereafter, no new catering policy has been issued. Generally contracts for bigger catering units are awarded through two-packet tender system, and other units by calling applications. The tenure of these contracts ranges from three to nine years. Prices of standard meals, tea/coffee and breakfast are fixed by Ministry of Railways taking into account the cost of raw materials, fuel, staff cost, packaging etc. Menu and tariff of a-la-carte food itms are decided by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Zonal Railways in a similar fashion. These prices are considered reasonable. Regular watch is kept to ensure that the catering licensees do not overcharge the passengers while selling standard and a-la-carte food items at stations and on trains. Acton is taken against the licensees found overcharging railway passengers.

Employees from J & K in construction programme

2085. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of employees belonging to Jammu and Kashmir State in railway construction programme; and

(b) why preference is not given to the local people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) About 68% of employees of various agencies involved in construction belong to J&K State.

(b) Adequate preference is given to the local people for employment in the project related works.

Freight corridor

2086. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi-Mumbai freight corridor has created problem for Centre as the Japan Bank of International Co-operation has informally told his Ministry that it is not keen to finance the new corridor that consultants would need an extra expenditure of Rs. 28,000 crores;

(b) whether the Delhi-Mumbai corridor is expected to connect strongly the vast northern Indian hinterland with the big ports in and around Mumbai; and

(c) if so, what are other main reasons for the delay and by when final decision of the Delhi-Mumbai corridor is to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Western Corridor will start from Jawaharlal Nehru Port, New Mumbai and will be routed, *via* Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Palanpur and Rewari to Tuglakabad and Dadri. The Corridor will strengthen connectivity of Northern hinterland with ports located on the West Coast.

(c) The Project has received 'in principle' approval. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) *viz.* Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) to implement the Project has been set up in October, 2006. Field Surveys for the Project are in progress.

Survey for laying new rail lines in Rajasthan

2087. SHRI RAMD AS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the surveys conducted by the Railways for laying of new railway lines in the country during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in the State of Rajasthan; and

(b) the steps taken up by the Railways to commence work on the identified new lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The State-wise details of new line surveys completed during the last 3 years are as under:-

SI. No.	Name of the Project	State(s)	KMS	Approx cost (Rs. in Crore)	
1	2	3	4	5	
1	Mantralayam Road-Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	111	241	
2	Machliputtnam-Repalli	Andhra Pradesh	45	259	
3	Ponduru-Rajam	Andhra Pradesh	19	53	
4	Ongole-Donakonda	Andhra Pradesh	87	196	
5	Jaggiyapet-Vishnupuram	Andhra Pradesh	5 5	156#	(Part)
6	Bhadrachallam-Kovvur	Andhra Pradesh	15 1	334	
7	Nadikudi-Sri Kalahasti	Andhra Pradesh	308	711	
8	Hyderbad-Gazwal-Sircilla-Vemu1wada	Andhra Pradesh	149	308	
9	Medak-Akkanapet	Andhra Pradesh	18	46	
10	Manoharabad-Kothapalli	Andhra Pradesh	148	308	#
11	Cuddapah-Bangalore *via* Madanapalli	Andhra Pradesh/Karntaka	255	. 656	
12	Attipattu-Putur (Incl. Periyapalayan Tiruvallur)	Andhra Pradesh/Tamilnadu	145	635	
13	Tuli-Tuli Town	Assam & NE. Region	9	44	
14	Murkongselek-Pasighat	Assam & N.E. Region	3 0	123	
15	Bedeti-ltanagar	Assam & NE. Region	42	490	
16	Azra-Byrnihat	Assam & NE, Region	3 0	223	#
17	Bhairabi-Sairang/Aizwal	Assam & N.E. Region	52	519	
18	Dimapur-Kohima	Assam & N.E. Region	887	912	*tt*
19	Agartala-Sabroom	Assam & N.E. Region	! 10	557	
20	Hathua-Deoria (Bhatni)	Bihar	8 5	200	#
21	Bariarpur-Manarpur	Bihar	6 8	292	#
22.	Pirpainiti to MGR	Bihar	17	45	